

SPORTS

Former Steamers head into MLB postseason play

Four players hope to earn trip to the World Series

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

As the hunt for a World Series title heats up, several former members of the Edenton Steamers are

playing in Major League Baseball's postseason play-offs.

Joe Smith, with the Houston Astros; Chris Bassitt, Oakland Athletics; Joey Wendle, Tampa Bay Rays; and Randy Dobnak, Minnesota Twins; spent a summer in Edenton playing in the Coastal Plain

League before being drafted by the MLB.

The most recent Edenton player drafted by the MLB is Dobnak, who played for the Steamers in 2016. In 2017, the pitcher was signed as a free agent by the Minnesota Twins. According to Steamers General Manager Tyler

Russell, Dobnak has taken an unbelievable path to the MLB, playing independent baseball after college, before signing with the Twins.

Before making it to Minnesota, Dobnak played at all three different levels of Minor League Baseball. During this regular season,

he amassed a 2-1 record as a pitcher, pitching for a total of 28.1 innings and an 1.59 ERA. During postseason play, he is currently 0-1 after pitching 2 innings for an 18 ERA.

His sinker has been clocked at 92.3 miles per hour.

Wendle played with the Steamers in 2011. He was drafted by the Cleveland Indians in the 6th Round in 2012. In 2018, Wendle finished fourth in the American League Rookie of the Year voting.

While he mainly serves

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Aces take down 'Canes, Red Barons

Boys' Soccer

STAFF REPORT

John A. Holmes boys' soccer team conquered Cape Hatteras and shot down the Red Barons in recent outings that suggest the No. 20 team has regained "big mo."

Monday's momentum comes courtesy not of Snoopy's aeronautical acrobatics against Gates County, but of the Aces' grit and determination to defeat the Red Barons, 9-1. As it is close to Tuesday's press time, more on that match in a future edition.

Aces now boast an 8-4-1 record with an Albemarle Athletic Conference standing of 1-1.

Next stop, Aces play a home conference game versus Manteo (5-7, 2-1 AAC) that starts at 6 p.m. today, Oct. 9.

Last Wednesday (Oct. 2) at Edenton's Purser Field, the Royal and Gold hosted the Hurricanes of Cape Hatteras who traveled home with a loss 8-3. Still, can't be too bad to go home to Hatteras — best time of year to go to beach!

The 'Canes were caroming off a pair of schizophrenic results in which they shredded Ocrakoke, 10-1, and then were manhandled by Northeastern 2-10. The Aces, who had fallen from No. 9 to No. 17 in North Carolina 1A, were groping to re-define themselves after two difficult 0-1 losses to highly ranked sides. This very physical match played itself out, true to the Canes' script, in schizophrenic fashion.

Los Lobos de Edenton were slow out of the gate in the first stanza. The

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PACE WITH AN ACE



PHOTOS BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

(L-r) Jackson Stegall settles in as he and Axel Preciado separate themselves from the pack at the start of Pace with an Ace. Stegall was first, while Preciado was second overall.

Stegall wins race aiding cross-country teams

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

While the temperature outside felt a little more like a normal fall morning on Saturday, the competition was hot during the second-annual Pace with an Ace.

The race benefits the John A. Holmes cross-country teams.

Chowan Middle's running phenom Jackson Stegall settled in to an easy pace after trailing Axel Preciado for a bit as the race started. Eventually, Stegall pulled away, placing first overall with a time of 18 minutes and 56 seconds on the mostly flat 3.1-mile race along East Water Street to Hayes Plantation and back. Preciado, placed second overall with a time of 19:33, while Aces' cross-country runner Logan Garman was third with 19:47.

On the female's side of the ledger, the top overall female was Madison Quinn, of Wintersville, Ohio, with a time of 21:31. Former Ace turned



Dr. Tom DiMartino, who also coaches the Holmes' boys soccer team, runs with his dog Saturday during Pace with an Ace 5k.

ECU Pirate Amy Turner placed second with a time of 23:56, while Chowan Middle's Samatha Layton finished third with a time of 24:29. Amy's sister Amanda Turner, who currently is on the Ace's cross-country team, also competed and finished with a time of 25:38.

Edenton-Chowan School Superinten-

dent Rob Jackson (22:38), John A. Holmes Principal Steve Wood (41:04) and Assistant Principal Sonya Rinehart (24:30) all supported the Aces' cross-country teams by participating in the early morning run. Later in the day, they could all be seen at the Peanut Festival's Battle of the Bands — a long day indeed. Boys' soc-

cer team head coach Dr. Thomas DiMartino ran with his dog finishing with a time of 22:24.

Marching Aces' Band Director Lynn Dale cheered on his daughter Madelyn Dale (31:23).

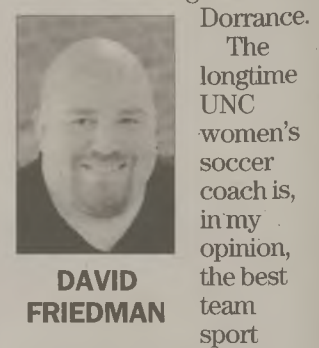
The race couldn't go off without the help of Chief Henry King's

See PACE, B5

FOURTH & LONG

Dorrance is ACC's best coach

The time has come to discuss the ACC's best coach. Now I'm willing to bet folks like Fourth and Long super-fan Randy Whitaker assume I am talking about Roy Williams and with good reason. Randy would be correct in believing Williams is an amazing coach, but I am instead referring to Anson



DAVID FRIEDMAN

coach on the planet. While I am admittedly biased as a lifelong Tar Heel fan, I do have some stats to back it up.

The NCAA began sponsoring women's soccer in 1982. In the 37 years since they began awarding national championships, Dorrance's squads have won 21 of them and been the runner up on 4 other occasions, including last season when they fell just short against Florida State in the title game.

What does it say about a program when disappointing seasons are defined by losses in the national semifinals? It says they are dominant. What seasons have the Tar Heels not even made it to the NCAA Tournament? I'll let you know if it happens.

Anson Dorrance is a legend but don't take my word for it. My favorite recognition of his greatness came from fellow legend Dean Smith in 1997.

Prior to Mack Brown's heartbreaking departure for Texas, he had the football team ranked number one in the country by Football News Magazine.

Coach Smith was asked what it felt like to have a top ranked UNC team that wasn't men's basketball.

His response was priceless. "This is a women's soccer school," Smith said. "We're just trying to keep up with them." To be fair, Dorrance had won 13 national championships and a Women's World Cup by that point.

I am sure some people

See FRIEDMAN, B5

Girls tennis heads to AAC tourney with win

Lady Aces defeated Northeastern on Oct. 2

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

Lady Aces' tennis team finished the season strong as they prepare to play in Thursday's Albemarle Athletic Conference Tournament.

Not going to jinx the outcome by predicting a conference title, but to all those AAC teams about to play the Lady Aces —

"Here comes the BOOM!" to quote the Christian metal band P.O.D.

"The team has won every match in the conference by a score of 9-0, so we are very optimistic about winning the conference tournament," Coach Maggie May said of the JAHHS' power-packed team (11-4, 5-0).

In the conference tournament, the setup is different from regular season match play. Lady Aces only play two singles and

two doubles teams in a tournament format.

"Our goal is to not only win the conference tournament, but to also advance everyone to the Individual Regionals on Oct. 18-19," May said.

Last week, Lady Aces played strong against Northeastern — 7-2 — Wednesday (Oct. 2) up in Elizabeth City.

Shout out to Carson Ray for being Maxprep's Player of the Match.

Per the singles' side of

the ledger, Lilly Bunch conquered (8-1); Sydney Spear spears (sorry) two opponents (8-6/8-6); Bailey Rinehart and Olivia Hare fall (8-1/8-1) but it's all good; Trinity Copeland triumphs (9-8/7-4).

Per the dynamic doubles side of the ledger, Bunch and Spear win (8-6); Ray and Rinehart resoundingly win (8-3); Hare and Copeland conquer (9-8/7-4).

"It was a great match against Northeastern,"

May said. "Our girls defeated a good Northeastern team 7-2. Our doubles teams played the best I've seen them play all season. We had strong performances in singles from No. 1 Lilly Bunch, No. 2 Sydney Spear, No. 3 Carson Ray and No. 6 Trinity Copeland. It was a great win as we head into the conference tournament next week."

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Aces compete at Great Dismal Swamp

Boys place 4th, girls 3rd at cross-country meet

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

CAMDEN — Last week, the Aces' cross country team competed in the heat and humidity on difficult terrain at the Great Dismal Swamp, a place that conjures up a story about George Washington. More on that in a minute.

Blake Meadows led the Aces boys team with an eighth place finish (22:41) followed by Lukas Berry



PHOTO BY LAURIE BROOKS

Aces' cross country team lines up to pace and race against area teams at the Great Dismal Swamp. Blake Meadows and Itary Lopez led the Aces with top 10 finishes.

at 10th place (23:13), then Arthur Schwarm at 20th place (25:09); Jacob Brooks at 21st (27:11); and Ethan Dale at 25th (28:42).

Edenton placed fourth,

while Camden placed first in the boys' meet with Manteo in second place and Perquimans in third.

A shout out goes to those runners in

Perquimans — Jayden White won the race (18:48); Eli Gregory placed 13th (24:12);

See SWAMP, B5

Registration will start Oct. 21 for winter sports

Sports round-up

SUBMITTED REPORTS

The Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department will take registrations Monday, Oct. 21, through Friday, Nov. 1, for the following sports: Youth Basketball (ages 5-16) and Cheerleading (ages 6-12) at the Ag/Extension Office Building, Suite C (across the street from the Medical Center) and the Northern Chowan Community Center.

The cost is \$25 (\$40 out-of-county) per sport/per child.

For information, call 252-482-8595 or 252-221-4901.

State championship rings to be presented

The 2018 spring men's track team is scheduled to receive its state championships rings Friday, Oct. 11, during halftime of the varsity football game

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